

Nicholas County Head Start Annual Report 2025-2026

Nicholas County Head Start started the school year with full funded enrollment (102 children). Full funded enrollment was maintained throughout the school year.

The Head Start program will continue to recruit eligible students and compare data numbers with the Board of Education and collect data on the changing population in Nicholas County. Service options may be adjusted to meet the needs of the families Head Start serves in response to the changing demographics.

Nicholas Community Action Partnership, Inc.

Head Start History/Facts

Tiffany Montgomery, Head Start Director

Please note the following information was directly obtained from the Office of the Administration for Children and Families Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center website unless otherwise noted.

In January of 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared the War on Poverty in his State of Union speech. Shortly thereafter, Sargent Shriver took the lead in assembling a panel of experts to develop a comprehensive child development program that would help communities meet the needs of disadvantaged preschool children. Among these experts were Dr. Robert Cooke, a pediatrician at John Hopkins University, and Dr. Edward Zigler, a professor of psychology and director of the Child Study Center at Yale University.

Part of the government's thinking on poverty was influenced by new research on the effects of poverty, as well as on the impacts of education. This research indicated an obligation to help disadvantaged groups, compensating for inequality in social or economic conditions. Head Start was designed to help break the cycle of poverty, providing preschool children of low-income families with a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional and psychological needs. A key tenet of the program established that it be culturally responsive to the communities served, and that the communities have an investment in its success through the contribution of volunteer hours and other donations as nonfederal share.

In September of 1995 the first Early Head Start grants were given. In October of 1998, Head Start was reauthorized to expand to full-day and full-year services. A comprehensive Head Start timeline is available on the ECLKC website.

Head Start was most recently reauthorized again in 2007 with bipartisan support. The improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 has several provisions to strengthen Head Start quality. These include alignment of Head Start school readiness goals with state early learning standards, higher qualifications for the Head Start teaching workforce, State Advisory Councils on Early Care and Education in every state, and increased program monitoring, including a review of child outcomes and annual financial audits. The Head Start training and technical

assistance system was redesigned to support programs through six National Centers and a state-based system to ensure success.

The statute also included a provision that regulations be promulgated to move programs from an indefinite project period to a five-year grant cycle. Programs would be required to demonstrate they are of high quality, or a competitive grant opportunity would be made available within the community.

Head Start has served over 32 million children since 1965, growing from an eight-week demonstration project to including full day/year services and many program options. Currently, Head Start is administered by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the Department of Health and Human Services. Head Start serves over a million children and their families each year in urban and rural areas in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. territories including American Indian, Alaskan Native and Migrant/Seasonal Communities.

Head Start promotes School Readiness by offering comprehensive early childhood education which includes nutritional, health, social and mental health services. Three and four-year old children and their families who fall below the federal poverty guidelines are served. Head Start also offers parent support and opportunities for personal growth toward their education, literacy, and employment goals.

Nicholas Community Action Partnership Inc., Head Start Program, receives its federal funding allocation directly from Southeast Region. This region also oversees all Head Start/Early Head Start Programs in West Virginia FL, GA, NC, SC, MD, VA, DC, DE and U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Nicholas County Head Start is federally funded to serve 102 students in Nicholas County. Nicholas County partners with the Nicholas County Board of Education and childcare partner Friends R Fun. Students are served in eleven classrooms, and all eleven classrooms are collaborative classrooms with Nicholas County Board of Education. In addition, childcare partner Friends R Fun has one classroom that serves children; however, no Head Start children are enrolled there.

Nicholas County Universal Pre-K Program Classroom & Centers

Birch River Early Learning Center

Cherry River Early Learning Center

Gauley River Early Learning Center 1 & 2

Mt. Lookout Head Start Center

Panther Creek Early Learning Center

Panther Creek Head Start Center

Summersville Early Learning Center 1, 2, 3, & 4

Child Care Partner Friends-R-Fun

Head Start Facts

Nicholas County Head Start utilizes the Child Plus Database to track information, monitor and provide follow-up to services. Child Plus also produces the annual Program Information Report for the program. This report is generated annually and shared with governing bodies, parents, and community members. The past reports and this year's report are analyzed to show trends and make improvements to services provided to children and families.

Enrollment Statistics for 2025-2026

107 Children served.

101 Families served.

18 children that received services from Nicholas Community Action Partnership, Inc. Head Start were at or below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines.

10 were foster children.

65 received TANF, SSI, SNAP

4 children were experiencing Homelessness.

4 students enrolled at 100-130% of federal poverty guidelines.

6 students were enrolled as over-income.

30 children served had some type of disability.

83 % average monthly attendance

Medical & Dental Exam Statistics

Nicholas County Head Start is dedicated to ensuring that all Head Start children have a medical and dental home. Families that enter the program without a medical or dental home are referred to local physicians and dentists. Families without Medicaid or dental insurance are assisted with enrollment in Medicaid or CHIPS.

99% of children enrolled in the Head Start Program had an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care.

99% of children served had a medical home.

91% of children served had a dental home.

95% of children served had health insurance.

85% of children served had up to date immunizations.

Nicholas County Head Start believes that parents are the most important teachers in children's lives. Parental involvement is a cornerstone of the Head Start program. Head Start utilizes the

Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework. Head Start strives to educate parents on the important role they play in being involved with their child's education. Nicholas County Head Start has a research-based parenting curriculum "Family Interaction Training" that is offered to children and families. Family Interaction Training is offered in a series of workshops in the Fall and materials are distributed to families monthly. All parents were invited to attend and learn positive parenting skills. Attendance has been low, but the parents who have attended the workshops report the content delivered was very beneficial to them.

Nicholas County employs three family service coordinators for the program, each with their own specialty. One Family Service Coordinator is an expert in Early Childhood Education and utilizes practiced based coaching to support the Education staff. One Family Service Coordinator oversees mental health services to children, families, and staff in partnership with Seneca Health Services. One Family Service Coordinator oversees parent involvement for the program. Each Family Service Coordinator is assigned to preschool classrooms/centers in Nicholas County to provide linkage, referrals, educational information, training, and health services information to families.

Parent Involvement

The number of people providing any volunteer services to the program during the 2025-2026 school year was 395. Approximately 229 of this number were current or former Head Start parents.

Parent and Training:

Orientation for all classrooms was offered to all families. Approximately 95% of families attended. All Head Start and Pre-K families received training on Transportation/Pedestrian Safety.

Parents and teachers plan a "parent and child" activity 1 time monthly. Multiple meetings for January, February and March were cancelled due to school closure.

At least 2 activities targeted toward the male role model of the family was planned in each classroom. There was approximately 75% of males participated in the activities.

CPR and First Aid courses were offered to all Head Start Families monthly. Head Start pays the cost of the certification.

Classroom volunteer training was offered to all parents. Approximately 20% of families participated. Head Start paid for the cost of the background check.

Family Interaction Training was offered to all families.

Center Team Meetings are held at each school monthly.

There was a Literacy Fair held on October 28, 2025. All children attending received books and party favors from various vendors. There were various activities available for children. There

were 18 vendors in total including the Nicholas Co. Board of Education and Velma the Bus. Approximately 125 participants attended.

The Mrs. And Mr. Clause Event in December in conjunction with the Veterans Memorial Park “Santa in the Park”. The event hosted approximately 300 participants. 170 of those attending were currently enrolled children and their families. All children received books and participated in activities.

44 Parent Surveys were returned. Overall parents were very pleased with the services offered by Head Start. Many mentioned that the child and parent activities were the favorite part of Head Start. Additionally, they said that the communication from Head Start staff was ongoing and very informative about their child’s progress and events happening.

Head Start provides monthly training for parents based upon their interests/needs that are gathered from surveys at the beginning of the school year. Parent training was offered in 2025-2026. Training was offered to all parents at the Head Start office on various days of the week. First Aid/CPR training and certification were offered monthly during program year 2025-2026.

During the program year 2025-2026 mental health services were provided. 15 children had high ASQ scores or Teacher/parents’ recommendation. There were three classroom/individual observations performed by (Seneca) MSW, LICSW along with the Head Start Mental Health Coordinator. Seneca completed a total of 3 individual observations. Parent Child Interaction Therapy was recommended by the Mental Health Consultant for several children.

Transportation

The Head Start program currently has a fleet of five buses. Four are used to provide transportation for all preschool students in the county and 1 is used for back-up.

The program provided transportation to approximately 105 Head Start students during program year 2025-2026. Head Start strives to provide busing to all preschool students when possible. Sometimes parents must meet the bus at designated areas. Most buses make two bus runs in the morning and two in the afternoon to the rural areas served. All NCAP buses are equipped with a harness for each student, and a bus monitor rides on each NCAP bus. NCBOE has a bus at Summersville Early Learning Center and Cherry River Early Learning Center, and three buses at Birch River Early Learning Center. A transportation waiver is in place for NCBOE buses, so students are transported without a harness and a bus monitor.

School readiness

The curriculum used in Nicholas County Pre-K classroom beginning school year 2025-2026 is Creative Curriculum nationally known for its research-validated curriculum and allows teachers to individualize to each child’s different developmental levels. The curriculum gives clear guidance for Teachers in the areas of adult-child interaction, classroom, and daily routine. The curriculum not only helps young children excel in language and cognitive learning but also promotes independence, curiosity, decision-making, cooperation, persistence, creativity, and

problem-solving. Research indicates that high-quality programs prepare students to succeed in school and later in their adult life.

Student reports are generated three times a year. Fall, Winter, and Spring reports are completed and shared with parents during Parent/Teacher conferences allowing for parent input. Child Outcome Reports are shared with Education advisory Committee, Policy Council, and the Nicholas Community Action Partnership, Inc., Board of Directors. This gives stakeholders an opportunity to have input in determining the school readiness goals for the program. These reports show students' accomplishments and/or where students may be falling short.

Once Child Outcome Reports are reviewed, specific training needs are developed for teachers/classrooms to make certain areas of weakness targeted and teachers have the tools to teach to increase student readiness for kindergarten. Child Outcome Reports show progress from the beginning checkpoint in the fall to the end of spring checkpoint. The area that was best overall was Play. The area with the least progression was Scientific Inquiry.

Teachers will receive more training in this area. Child Outcomes/Creative Curriculum Goals/ELOF/School Readiness Plan and the WV Early Learning Standards are all aligned to prepare students for entry into kindergarten.

A Transition Plan is developed for each classroom with Nicholas County Board of Education/Pre-K members to be followed, and materials are distributed to families at the last home visit to explain the transition process and what to expect with the Kindergarten Move-Up day. Head Start works not only with the child, but with families in the areas of health, education, nutrition, social and other services that are determined, based on the family needs assessment.

HEAD START FUNDING		
PY- June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026		
	BUDGET	RECEIVED
FEDERAL		
HEAD START FUNDING	\$ 1,177,845.00	\$ 1,177,845.00
USDA	\$ 20,240.00	\$ 20,240.00
LOCAL		
NON-FEDERAL IN-KIND	\$ 294,461.00	\$ 294,461.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,492,546.00	\$ 1,492,546.00
HEAD START BUDGET VS EXPENDITURES		
	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE
PERSONNEL	\$ 639,050.00	\$ 639,050.00
FRINGE BENEFITS	\$ 227,823.00	\$ 227,823.00
TRAVEL	\$ 4,021.00	\$ 4,021.00
SUPPLIES	\$ 14,723.00	\$ 14,723.00
OTHER	\$ 81,317.00	\$ 81,317.00
	\$ -	\$ -
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 73,979.00	\$ 73,979.00
INDIRECT COSTS	\$ 120,483.00	\$ 120,483.00
TOTAL OPERATING - PA 4122	\$ 1,161,396.00	\$ 1,161,396.00
TOTAL T&TA - PA 4120	\$ 16,449.00	\$ 16,449.00
TOTAL FEDERAL	\$ 1,177,845.00	\$ 1,177,845.00
USDA	\$ 20,240.00	\$ 20,240.00
TOTAL NON-FEDERAL	\$ 294,461.00	\$ 294,461.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,492,546.00	\$ 1,492,546.00

HEAD START PY-2025/2026

